

Blacks Canyon Ranch
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CANBY, CALIFORNIA
96015

April 4, 2003

Country of Origin Labeling Program
Agriculture Marketing Service, USDA
Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0249

I am a member of R-Calf and whole heartedly support their views. However, I feel very strongly that live animals shipped into the USA by any country are putting the general public as well as all our animals at high risk for disease. I personally think this tactic should be stopped now. The USA should immediately put into effect the following rules to implement COOL. Don't wait until 2004, do it now!

All imported animals, whether live or as meat, should be branded with their country of origin. Don't leave loopholes for importers to get around COOL. To not do this would be to deceive the American public, which is what is happening now. The USDA requires all our producers of other packaged or canned goods to include a list of ingredients on their labels. Why are they not demanding this of meat products? These brands or labels must follow the product to the consumers so we know what we are buying. The rules we must follow to raise our animals are far different than any country that is shipping to us.

Thank you,

Peggy S. Brown
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